

## THE BUBBLYJOCK.

At Abbotford Sir Walter said,  
His friends about the board,  
In easy after-dinner chat,  
When thus an English lord:  
"Talking of troubles, we are told  
Each mortal takes his share.  
Now, there are happy lives, I hold,  
Exempt from thought of care."  
"Not so," Sir Walter said, "no heart  
That beats in human breast,  
But bears some burden, and I hold,  
Some burden of unrest."  
"I'll venture," said my lord, "I'll lead  
One sock without its yoke.  
One truly calm and tranquil mind,  
Take that daffidilly, Joe."  
By shaded walks of Abbotford,  
Sir Walter led them down,  
Called the poor lad before the lord,  
Who, losing half-a-crown:  
"You live in luck, good Joe, I see,  
Well fed, light work to do."  
"Oh, ay, the master's guide to me,  
An' I have plenty, too."  
"Well said, brave Joe, and now, once more—  
Of troubles know you nothing?"  
At once his face was "daffidilly"  
With the "paid cost of thought."  
"Trouble enough! Who could his maid?"  
He shuddered as he spoke.  
"Oh, ay, we fear I'm faintly said,  
You'll mind the bubblyjock!"  
"The bubblyjock! What thing on earth—  
May that be?" he asked.  
"And then, amid a roar of mirth,  
They see, across the ward,  
A turkey-cock of estate size,  
Slow strutting in a ring,  
Poor Joe beholds with quailing eyes,  
And quickly takes to flight."  
"Ah!" says Sir Walter, "it's the same  
With all poor human folk;  
Our troubles differ but in name,  
Each has his 'bubblyjock.'"  
—Emma Smiler Carter, in St. Nicholas.

## CLEOPATRA.

Being an Account of the Fall and  
Vengeance of Harmachis, the  
Royal Egyptian.

AS SET FORTH BY HIS OWN HAND.

By H. RIDER HAGGARD,  
Author of "King Solomon's Mines,"  
"She," "Allan Quatermain,"  
Etc., Etc., Etc.

Illustrated by NICHOLL, after CATON WOOD-  
VILLE and GRIFFITHS.

CHAPTER XVII.  
OF THE TROUBLE OF CLEOPATRA, OF HER  
OATH TO HARMACHIS, AND OF THE TELLING  
BY HARMACHIS TO CLEOPATRA OF THE SE-  
CRET OF THE TREASURE THAT LAY BENEATH  
HER.

HAT same night  
Cleopatra summoned me to her  
private chamber. I  
went, and found her  
much troubled in  
mind; never before  
had I seen her so  
deeply moved. She  
was alone, and like  
some trapped lioness,  
walking to and fro  
across the marble floor, while  
thought chased thought across  
her mind, as clouds scud  
ding over the sea, for a mo-  
ment casting a shadow in her deep eyes.  
"So thou art come, Harmachis," she said,  
resting for awhile, as she took my hand.  
"Counsel me, for never did I need counsel  
more. Oh, what days have the Gods meas-  
ured out to me—days restless as the ocean!  
No peace have I known from childhood up,  
and it seems none shall I ever know. Scarce  
by a very little have I escaped the dagger's  
point. Harmachis, when this new trouble  
came, like a storm, has gathered beneath the  
horizon's rim, bursts sudden o'er me. Didst  
mark that tigerish gleam? Well should I love  
to trap him! How soft he spoke! Ay, like  
a cat he purred, and all the time he  
stretched his claws. Didst mark the letter,  
too? It has an ugly look. I know this  
Antony. When I was but a child build-  
ing into womanhood, I saw him; but my  
eyes were ever quick and I took his measure  
soon. Half Hercules and half a fool, with a dash  
of genius veiling his folly through. Easily  
led by those who enter at the gates of his  
voluptuous senses; but if crossed, an iron  
foe. True to his friends, if, indeed, he  
loves them, and oftentimes false to his own  
interest. Generous, hardy and in adversity  
a man of virtue; in prosperity a not and a  
slave to women. How deal with such a man,  
whom Fate and Opportunity have, despite  
himself, set on the crest of fortune's wheel?  
One day 'twill overwhelm him; but till that  
day he sweeps across the world and laughs  
at those who drown."

"Antony is but a man," I answered, "and  
a man with many foes; and, being but a  
man, he can be overthrown."  
"Ay, he can be overthrown; but he is one  
of three, Harmachis. Now that Cassius has  
gone where all fools go, Rome has thrown  
out a Hydra head. Crush one and another  
hisses in thy face. There's Lepidus, and  
with him that young Octavianus, whose  
old eyes may yet with a smile of triumph  
look on the murdered form of the empty,  
worthless Lepidus, of Antony, and of Cleo-  
patra. If I go not to Cilicia, mark thou!  
Antony will knit up a peace with these  
Partians, and taking the tales they tell of  
me for truth—and indeed there is truth in  
them—will fall with all his force on Egypt.  
And how then?"  
"How then? Why, then, we'll drum him  
back to Rome."  
"Ah! Thou savest so, and perchance,  
Harmachis, had I not won that game we  
played together some twelve days gone,  
thou, being Pharos, mightest well have  
told this thing, for round thy throne old  
Egypt would have gathered. But Egypt  
loves me not; my Greek blood, and but  
now have I scattered that great plot of  
thine, wherein half the land was meshed.  
Will these men, then, arise to succor me?  
Were Egypt true to me I could, indeed,  
hold my own against all the force that Rome  
may bring; but Egypt hates me, and has as  
little to do with the Roman as the Greek.  
Hail might I make defense had I the gold,  
for with money soldiers can be bought,  
wherewith to feed the maw of mercenary  
battles. But I have none; my treasures are  
dry, and though there is wealth in the land,  
yet do debts perjure me. These were have  
brought me ruin, and I know not how to  
find a talent. Perchance, Harmachis, thou  
wast, by hereditary right, Priest of the  
Pyramids; and she drew near and looked  
me in the eyes, 'perchance, if long de-  
ceased father drew me in, the secret tell me  
where I can touch the gold to save thy land  
from ruin and myself from the grasp of An-  
tony! Say, is it so?"  
I thought awhile, and then I answered:  
"And if such a tale were true, and if I

could show thee treasure stored by the  
mighty Pharaohs of the most far-off ages  
against the needs of Khem, how can I know  
that thou wouldst indeed make use of that  
wealth to those good ends?"  
"Is there, then, a treasure?" she asked,  
curiously. "Nay, I am not, Harmachis,  
for of a truth every name of gold at this  
time of want is like the sight of water in  
the desert."  
"I believe," I said, "that there is such a  
treasure, though I myself have never seen it.  
But this I know, that if it still lie in the  
place where it was set, 'tis because so  
heavy a curse shall rest upon him who  
wickedly and for selfish ends shall lay  
hands thereon that none of those Pharaohs  
to whom it hath been shown have dared to  
touch it, whatever their need."  
"So," she said, "they were cowardly  
aforetime, or else was their need not great.  
With thou show me this treasure, then,  
Harmachis?"  
"Perchance," I answered, "I will show it  
to thee, if it be, when thou hast sworn  
that thou wilt use it to defend Egypt  
from this Roman Antony and for the wel-  
fare of her people."  
"I swear it," she said earnestly. "Oh, I  
swear by everything in Khem that if thou  
showest me this great treasure I will defy  
Antony and send Lepidus back to Cilicia  
with words more sharp than those he  
brought. Ay, I'll do more, Harmachis; so  
soon as may be, I will take thee to husband  
before all the world, and thou thyself shalt  
carry out thy plans and beat the Roman  
eagles off."  
Thus she spoke, gazing at me with truth-  
ful, earnest eyes. I believed her, and for  
the first time since my fall was, for a mo-  
ment happy, thinking that all was not lost  
to me, and that with Cleopatra, whom I  
loved this madly, I might yet win my place  
and power back.  
"Swear it, Cleopatra," I said.  
"I swear, beloved! and I seal my  
oath!" And she kissed me on the forehead.  
And I, too, kissed her; and we talked of  
what we would do when we were wed, and  
how we should overcome the Roman.  
And thus was I again beguiled, though  
I knew that, had not been for the jeal-  
ous anger of Harmachis—which, as shall  
be seen, was ever urging her forward to  
fresh deeds of shame—Cleopatra would  
have wedded me and broken with the Ro-  
man. And indeed, in the issue, it had been  
better for her and Egypt.  
Far into the night we sat, and I revealed  
to her somewhat of that ancient secret of  
the mighty treasure hid beneath the mass  
of Horus. Neither, it was agreed, should  
we go on the morrow, and the second night  
from now attempt its search. So, early on the  
next day, a boat was secretly made ready,  
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